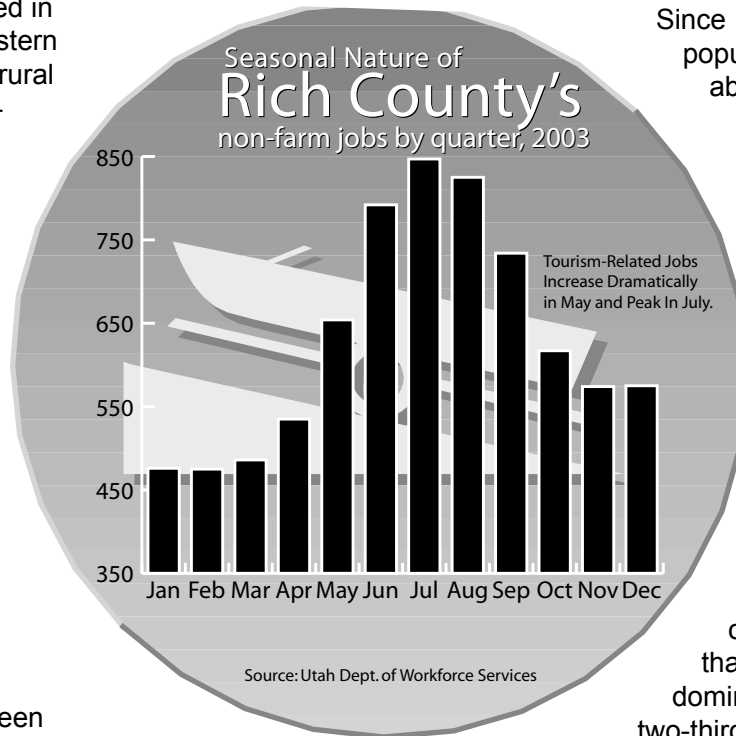


# RICHhighlight county

by John Mathews

Rich County is nestled in the extreme northeastern corner of Utah. This rural county bases its livelihood on agriculture (ranching), tourism, and government. Tourism and government together account for over half of all nonfarm jobs.

While the ranching activity is fairly stable over and through the year, the tourism business is not. Off-season employment averages between 480 and 580 workers. Peak season (the summer) employment counts run between 650 and 800, with the peak month being July.



Since 1990, Rich County's population has grown by about 20 percent, from 1728 to 2079 (2003).

This population count makes the county one of the smallest in the state. Only Daggett and Piute Counties have fewer persons.

Economic activity in the area is geographically dichotomous in that agriculture/ranching dominates the southern two-thirds of the county and tourism-related business are in control the northern one-third, or "Bear Lake" area.

For more information about Rich County, check out:  
<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/north/rich/rich2.asp>  
 "State, County and Local Information"

- ✓ More persons commute out of Rich County to work in Wyoming than commute from Rich County to work in any or all other Utah counties. Two-thirds of Rich County workers work in Rich County.
- ✓ Of local lore, a monster of sorts, "the Bear Lake Monster," is purported to still inhabit the Lake. No one knows for sure, but there seems to be more sightings during the warm summer months when tourists abound.
- ✓ Rich County is one of the coldest spots in the continental U.S. Randolph and Woodruff are towns often named the coldest spot for any particular day in January.
- ✓ Cattle are the primary agricultural product in Rich County. In fact, there are 19 cows for every person. In addition, raspberry cultivation is very important around Garden City.